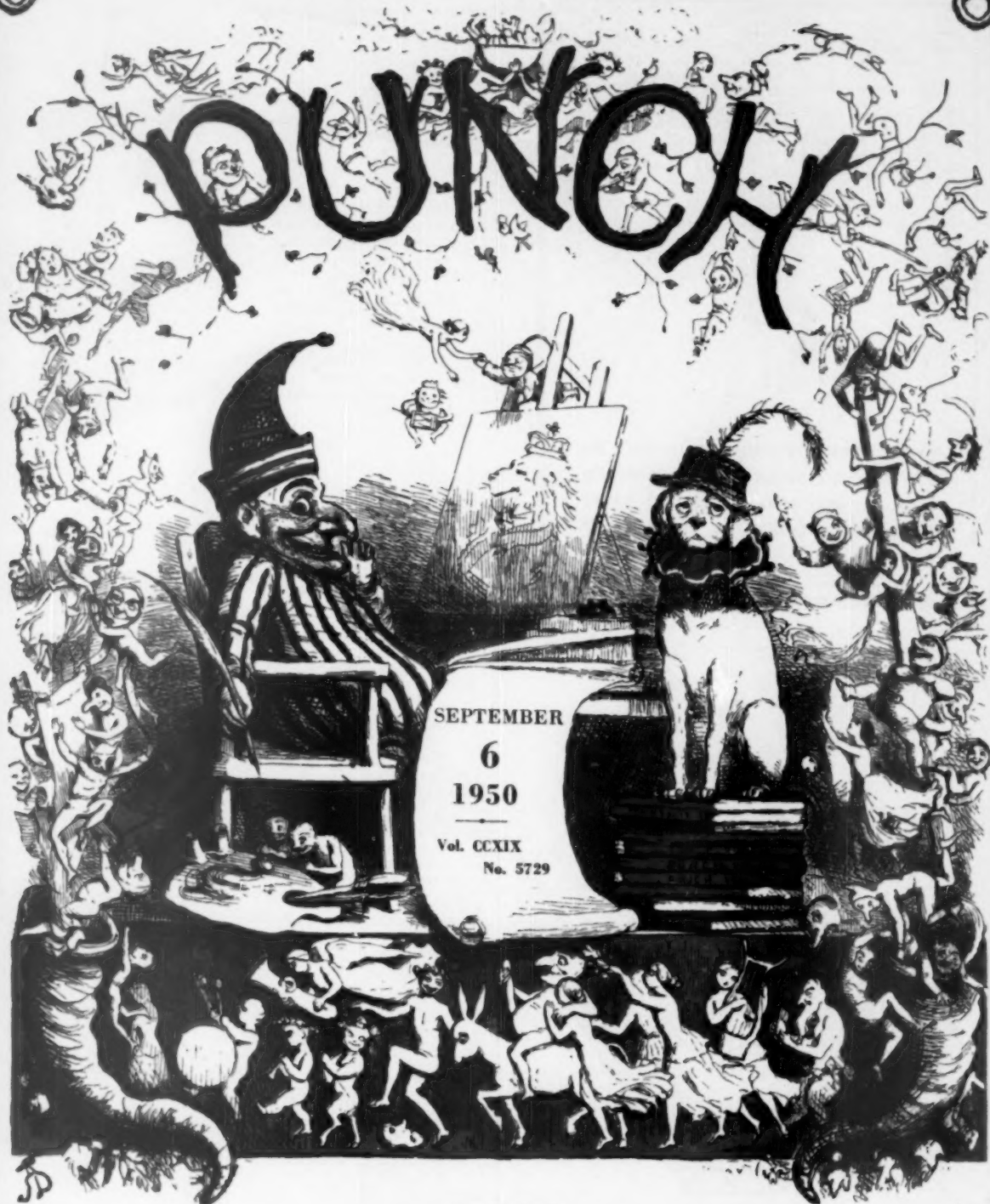


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PUNCH OR THE LONDON CHARIOT—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 1950

6^d

SEPTEMBER

6

1950

Vol. CCXIX

No. 5729

PUNCH OFFICE
10 BOUVERIE STREET LONDON E.C.4



**"YES, WHEN IT'S FINISHED IT WILL BE
FITTED THROUGHOUT WITH PARTITIONS,
LOCKERS, AND STORAGE BINS OF STEEL
BY Sankey-Sheldon -OF COURSE."**

Sankey-Sheldon Limited, 46 Cannon St., London, E.C.4

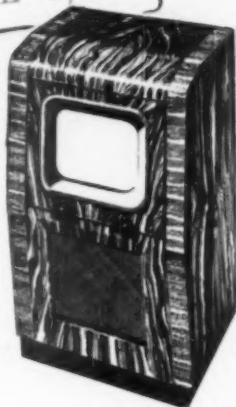


*Made by ABDULLA for those
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Introducing the NEW
RGD MODEL 1700

This new R.G.D. Television receiver employs a 12" flat-ended tube and 10" speaker. Combining the traditional R.G.D. qualities of technical excellence and a beautiful cabinet, this model is now available at £109 11s. 1d. including purchase tax.

See and hear the complete range of R.G.D. instruments on Stand No. 50, National Radio Exhibition, Castle Bromwich, Sept. 6th-16th.



The Aristocrat of
RGD
Radio and Television

RADIO GRAMOPHONE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
BRIDGNORTH SHROPSHIRE



**Give him
a RONSON!**

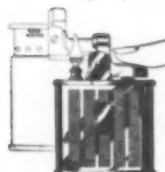
Press, it's lit—
Release, it's out!

BRIAN REECE—P.C. 49 of radio fame— thanks **JOY SHELTON**, his radio fiancée, for a Ronson. "Words fail me," says Brian. "This won't," says Joy. "Ronson always lights first time, every time!"

You give the best when you give a Ronson, the precision-built lighter with one-finger, one-motion safety action. A constant reminder of you through the years! Backed by the Ronson service.

A favourite—the
Ronson Standard.
Choice of finishes
From 38/6

*A joy to give
A joy to get!* **RONSON**
WORLD'S GREATEST LIGHTER



Ronson Whirlwind.
Windshield slides
up for outdoors—
down for indoors.
Choice of finishes.
From 43/6



Ronson Princess
—for lady's
handbag. Choice
of finishes.
From 38/6

AVOID IMITATIONS—LOOK FOR THE TRADE MARK RONSON



Bowater mark...

BOWATERS reproduce here a newly registered trade mark. The arrow stands for precision, purposefulness, and integrity; the wings for drive, impetus, and service; the water for the covering of distances — symbols which represent correctly the aims and policies of the world-wide Bowater Organisation.

BY entries made in the Trade Marks Register, the subsidiary companies of the Organisation in this country which sell the production of the Bowater paper and board mills, either in original or converted form, have been recorded as Registered Users of the mark.

BESIDES being used to identify goods manufactured by or for its registered proprietors, the mark will be seen on the properties and equipment of the Bowater Organisation, and will be used as an advertising symbol.



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(registered proprietor of the trade mark for the home market)

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ESCAPE TO THE PAST

A bath in champagne

AMID the splendour and opulence of the Elizabethan Court, fashionable ladies enjoyed a lavish Beauty Ritual. After first washing their faces with steaming water, they used to lave their glowing features in wine.

This induced a pink, ruddy bloom so radiant that many women began to take their bath in a favourite vintage. And younger women, restricted to milk, longed for the day when they, too, could sport themselves in Burgundy.

It is safe to assume that the original bubble-baths comprised three or four dozen magnums of the finest Champagne. And, as more and more ladies sought the enhancing properties of the wine bath, the practice became exaggerated. Mary, Queen of Scots, even attempted to pass a

special Bill through Parliament authorizing an increase in her allowance so that she might luxuriate more frequently.

Indeed, when Thomas Campion, in the throes of Elizabethan ardour, wrote "There is a Garden in her Face", he may well have meant "Vineyard".

Today, little remains of that age of blithe extravagance. We can still thrill to the snowy splendour of the Matterhorn or the grace of a Sheraton table. But what further have we?

A hint of luxury survives in Perfectos Cigarettes. Made by Player's according to the finest traditions of that world-famous House, blended by the world's finest craftsmen, they are packed in boxes of 50 and 100. In an imperfect world Perfectos Cigarettes are just about perfect.

"PERFECTOS FINOS"
CIGARETTES

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'Celanese'
Ties

with a material
advantage—
luxurious in
texture . . . rich
in variety . .
economical



Also ask to see

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The wonder watch that defies the elements

Here is the Rolex Oyster, first and most famous waterproof wrist-watch in the world.

How was such a watch made a reality? It was the result of years of experiment by Rolex technicians. Imagine their excitement when, in 1927, Miss Mercedes Gleitze, a London stenographer, startled the world by swimming the English Channel wearing . . . a Rolex Oyster!

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**Don't
delay!**

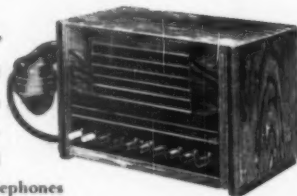
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Telephone: Chancery 5341 (P.B.X.)

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM



ST. LEGER

What are they talking about?

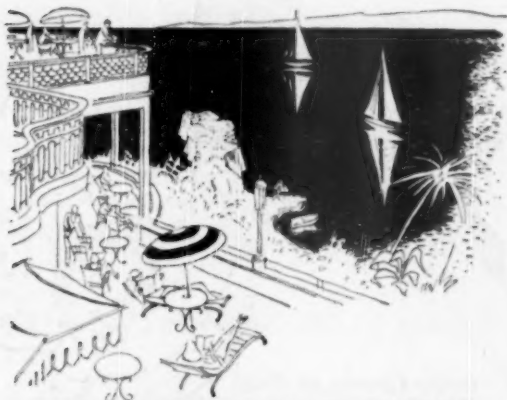
No, they're not talking about the Sales. The topic is Burrough's Gin. People of discernment, who prefer gin drinks, always try for Burrough's because it is triple distilled. This is the extra refinement that makes Burrough's Gin soft, smooth, and clean to the palate.

Taken plain it is delicious... and Burrough's Gin always "keeps its place", in even the most delicate cocktail. Prices: 32/4 per bottle; 16/11 per half-bottle

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BURROUGH'S *Gin*
DEFEATER
IT IS TRIPLE DISTILLED!

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The *Imperial* TORQUAY

The ENGLISH HOTEL in the MEDITERRANEAN MANNER



gay deceiver

You've heard incredible stories about this car—stories of International race triumphs; unbelievably high average speeds. And frankly you're doubtful.

Now as you inspect her close up, you still think it can't be. She looks so comfortable, even sedate... so harmless somehow. Can that neat, tapering bonnet house such formidable power?

Then you settle down in the deep driving seat and touch the controls... and after a while you know this Javelin's been smiling at you all the time because those cars ahead seem almost stationary; and as you glide silently up behind, you realize you're travelling fast—very fast. And you brake...

Quickly the needle slips back to 40—yes, you were up in the 70's and the whole car was smooth and steady. You didn't even notice. The torsion bar suspension holds you gently to the corners, the road seems velvet smooth, the short neat bonnet lets you see and relax at the same time and the precision steering is just that. It's all so easy in this Javelin.

Now you know it. This car—so disarmingly innocent—so spacious—has all the speed of victory in her veins.

This car is a waste of money if you don't care what a car does. There's such a lot built into it that doesn't really show until you have it in your hands. Once tried, you'll say 'I'd rather go by Javelin!'

Top speed, electrically timed, 78 m.p.h.
Acceleration 0-60 m.p.h. in 22.2 secs.
"The Motor" Road Test. Horizontally opposed flat-four 50 B.H.P. engine.



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THE FOOD OF ROYAL BABIES

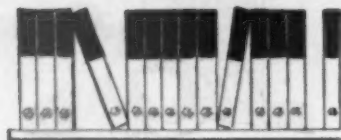


Rooms of distinction with their quiet dignity and charm, attributable to simplicity of setting, owe much to the use of Walpamur Quality Paints.



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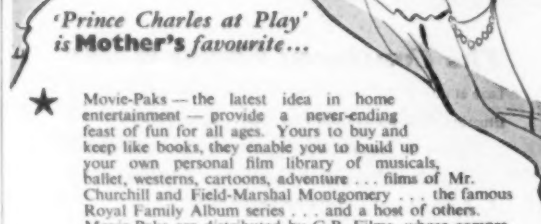
Young John asks for Mickey Mouse...



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Father prefers the 'good old Western'...



'Prince Charles at Play' is Mother's favourite...



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A Company within the J. Arthur Rank Organisation



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Ready-to-wear
department of coats
and suits (English and American sizes)

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If your present electric cooker has reached 'retirement age'—make its successor a Creda! When your Creda reports for duty, you'll be quite astonished and delighted at the way it lightens your work. You see, Creda cookers are built to new and exclusive designs: they cook better than anything you've ever known before, they're fast boiling, and so easy to clean! Have you yet seen one of the new Creda models? They're on display at your local electrical contractor or electricity service centre

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MADE BY THE HOUSE OF **Simplex**

Simplex Electric Company Limited
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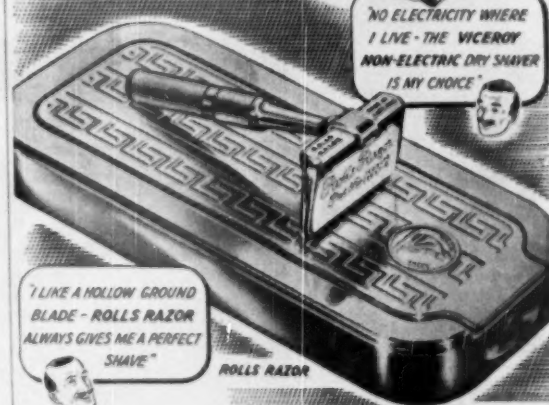
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Tristram Shandy, Chapter 96



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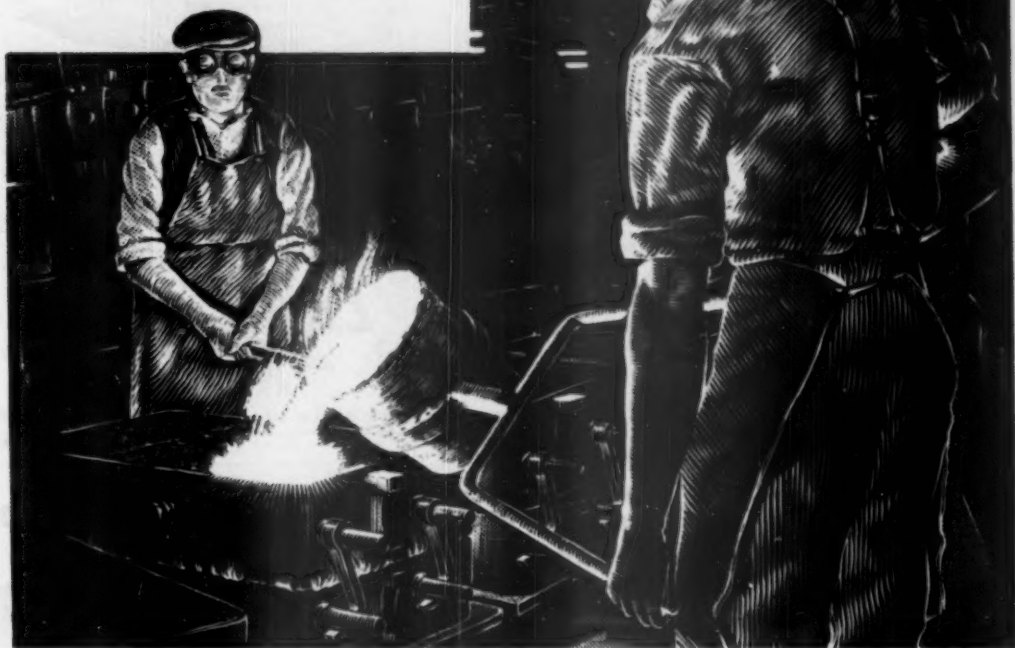
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September

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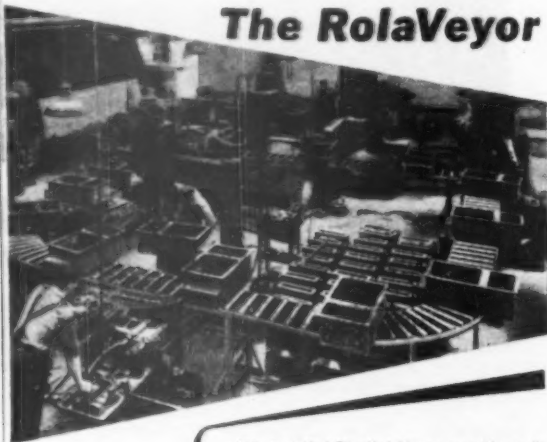
Wherever there's work to be done
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LAND- ROVER

MADE BY THE ROVER CO. LTD. SOLIHULL, BIRMINGHAM

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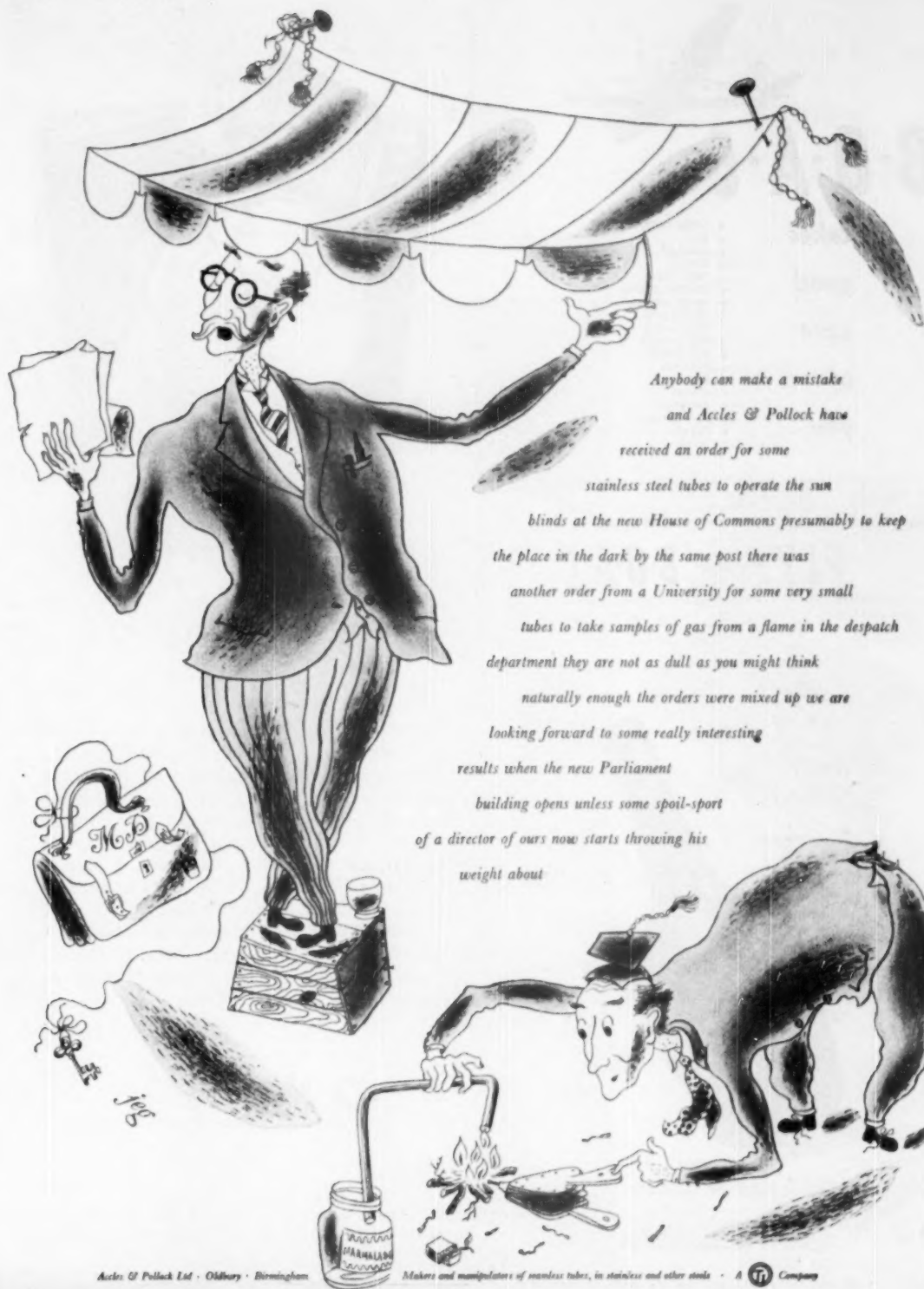
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naturally enough the orders were mixed up we are
looking forward to some really interesting
results when the new Parliament
building opens unless some spoil-sport
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weight about

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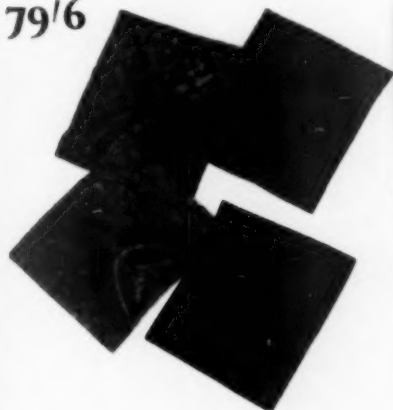


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CHARIVARIA

RUSSIANS taking part in the European Games threatened to walk out after a dispute over the 100 metres relay result. No doubt they feared that unless they did they might lose their amateur status.



"The individual dosimeter looks like a fountain pen and can be carried like one. The wearer looks like a fountain pen and can be carried like one."—*"Daily Graphic."*
What a curious coincidence.

The Select Committee on Estimates disclose that £18 million a year is lost to the Post Office because the demand for telephones cannot be satisfied. And this is without even including the overcharges which would be made in the new subscribers' accounts.

Two Glasgow schoolboys competing in the British Chess Congress lost their game because they overslept. Onlookers were impressed with the astuteness of the judges in noticing such details.

Deadlock

"Hear Mr. H. C. Dent, noted British educationist, Friday, April 21, at 8.15 p.m., in the Victoria College-Normal School Auditorium. General public invited. No admission."—*Canadian paper*



Owing to a dispute in the London Printing Trade it has been found necessary to reduce the size of this week's issue of PUNCH. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.

Free Lancer

"KOREA.—Would a concern be interested in sponsoring a correspondent, human inside stories." Advt. in *"World's Press News"*

If the recently published recommendations of a Home Office committee are accepted child actors will be allowed to work in film studios at any age. This will be a relief to those young stars who have fretted so long under the necessity to put their Oscars away in the toy-cupboard every time they see a policeman coming.



A *Daily Express* sports writer suggests that we should "stand behind our athletes and give them a push." Tug-of-war enthusiasts regard this proposal with mixed feelings.



THE COSMIC MESS

NARROGAR ANN, English-bred winner of the 1940 English Greyhound Derby at the White City, has been mated in America to *Flashy Sir*, the U.S.A. champion greyhound. The bride will soon be on her way home, this column reads, and her puppies will be "the first Anglo-American greyhounds to be whelped in this country."

This historic union, at a time when co-operation in all things is the commanding rule for our two countries, has moved this column deeply. Heavy must be the cares of those who have to name the classic pups; and perhaps this column's uncountable but brainy readers could help with a few suggestions. It is a more useful exercise than "the crossword", and has richer opportunities than naming a horse: for the average greyhound mother, the experts say, has six or seven "progeny". In this case neither of the parents has given the god-fathers much of a lead. "Narrogar" (Irish, presumably) is not a good name to play with, and "Flashy Sir" hardly suggests the dignity of a champion. Perhaps the uncountables, before they begin, would like to hear more of their history.

"Ann" has a classic pedigree. "Her noted dam, Winnie of Berrow, a daughter of Beef Cutlet, was a track-record holder of open-race class, whilst her sire, Dutton Swordfish, was the winner of the 1944

Waterloo Cup." And "her sire's great-granddam was Burletta, winner of the first Greyhound St. Leger, run at Wembley in 1928."

"Burletta—Winnie—Beef Cutlet—Swordfish"—the strain, no doubt, is grand, but the line of thought is not easy to follow. Beef Cutlet had better be forgotten at once, and probably Narrogar too.

Flashy Sir represents the finest blood in the American greyhound stud book. "His sire is a combination of English, Irish and Australian strains, whilst his dam's breeding is entirely English, and includes such stalwarts as Jamie, Beaded Dick, Flint Rock and the famous Fawcett strain of the 1900's." On the track, in eighty races, he scored sixty-two wins and ten seconds.

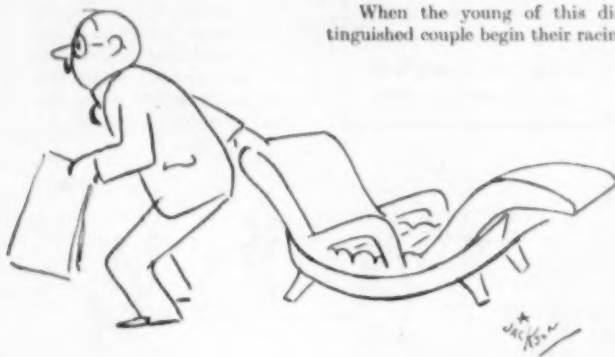
Go to it, then, uncountable nomenclators! "Nephew Sam", perhaps, would do for one of the boys—or "Son Sam"—or even "Sam Son"? "Flashing By" or "Flashing Boy" would remind us of papa, and "Shining Ann" of both the parents. "American Ann", "White Flash" (there *must* be a white one), "Flashing Sword", "Dagger Fish", "Sir Fawcett", "Washington Winnie", "Sam Bull", "Sir Junior", "Ann Across the Sea", "Atlantic Child", "Atlantic Daughter", "Atlantic Charter", "Flashing Fawcett", "Ann Abroad", "Annhattan", "Cousin Ann", "Bright Knight"—No! Very well. Now you try.

When the young of this distinguished couple begin their racing

career, at the age of two, or earlier, those who bet about them on a race-course will pay a tax. But if you go to a horse race-course and put your money on two-year-old horses you will pay no tax. That is the law in this strange land. The idea is that the horse is a noble animal and a big shot in the export drive, while the greyhound is a mere dog and pretty corrupting at that. These debatable points will not be debated here. But the interesting result is that the man who bets on horses is now entitled to consider himself as comparatively virtuous: for has not the State picked him out for special favour? This column, however, predicts that this dog, like others, will, one day, have his day. It should not be forgotten, by the way, if fast running is considered important to the nation, that a dog Derby winner runs faster than a horse Derby winner. The horse, we know, unites the human race; but if British greyhounds are going to dash about the oceans on goodwill missions, and marry distinguished foreigners, the dawn of a new era may be nearer than we think. Why not send the famous dog "Red Wind" to Moscow? There must be a bitch or two in the Kremlin.

Talking of Moscow, as one must now and then, we all know that the Iron Curtain is about the thickest thing of its kind there has ever been. Nobody can get through it, one way or the other, and, by all accounts, if an unwanted stranger did get into Russia he would not walk far before he was arrested. Yet every day in the London papers this column reads *exactly* how many troops and tanks and aeroplanes the Russians have got, how many submarines and how fast they go. A little bird has told this column that at the end of the last war, when Russia was still our Gallant Ally, we never knew *exactly* what she had got. But now, when relations are not quite so smooth, we seem to know everything. The British Intelligence Service must be good indeed. Or is it the Russian Information Service?

A. P. H.





WHODUNIT OR HOWTODOIT

"Excuse me, sir, but aren't these what you're looking for?"



"Fancy allowing horses on the footpath."

LACROSSE AND US

ALMOST the only advantage that modern woman can claim over modern man is a knowledge of lacrosse. Not by any means all women have learnt this game, and fewer have mastered it, for unless you can catch a solid rubber ball with a loosely-strung tennis-racket you get nowhere, and many of us were nowhere after four years. But I have yet to meet a man who doesn't know so little about lacrosse that he thinks it is a kind of airborne ice-hockey fought to the death by Canadians. He should have seen us.

We played lacrosse at school because it is a nice refined sport in which you do not swipe at your opponents' ankles or hurl yourself at their shins. You just hit their lacrosse-stick with yours, the idea being to look as if you want to get the ball, and if you are strong enough to hold your weapon by the end of its broom-handle you suffer nothing worse than the effort of sawing in mid-air and the annoyance of being elbowed aside. At the average English girls' school—I can't think the idea came from Canada—lacrosse may be made more refined still by having a law that you never hit downwards, which meant that our heads were safe and our hands bashed only from below. But injury in any case was a negligible part of *our* game. We were too busy running after the ball and looking keenly disappointed that we never got there.

Lacrosse, of course, began with the autumn term. So did many of us. We were therefore allowed to be as bad at lacrosse as at darning to begin with, on the understanding that we would improve more quickly than we knew to be possible. In fact no one expected anything of us at all when at the first morning break we mustered on the grass for Catching Practice; except that we should stand facing the musterer and finish

our bun. In lacrosse, as in golf, there is a badness so bad that you may do better to start with than when you have learnt how; and most of us dimly remember those few carefree Catching Practices as the only occasions in our lacrosse careers when we exceeded expectation, if only by holding our lacrosse-sticks the right way up before anyone told us.

The expert, by which I mean someone clever enough to be able to tick us off without losing face, slung the ball at us with splendid ease from various angles and heights, and we novices dutifully got our sticks near enough to feel the thud as it bounced off the wooden frame. Then we ladled it up and threw it back. We put one foot forward and gave a little hop as we shoved both arms towards the expert. Practice was then held up while we were shown how to lever our weapon so that the top edge inscribed an arc, the handle caught us on the knee and the ball dropped over our shoulder. Occasionally we caught the ball, by getting it wedged in the narrow part of the net. More occasionally we stopped it fair and square in the middle and, by bringing the weapon down smartly, shot it out again. By holding the stick up at an angle instead of horizontally, and bringing it down less smartly, this is the way to keep the ball in. As you see, we were beginning to learn the rules. Another rule is that as the player runs she waves her stick in the way that an egg-and-spoon racer might if he knew dynamics—or is it statics?—wave his spoon. We found this easier than catching, because we were careful not to wave so hard that the ball fell out.

After some weeks of imperceptible progress we were drafted into real games, the ones on the bottom field that nobody walked past. With our experience of

actual conflict gathered from the edge of the top field on Saturday afternoons, crossing our thumbs for the house teams, it is not surprising that when we *did* play in a game our chief impression was the change of viewpoint. We were down there, the middle of the single file of three guarding their own goal. This is an important place on a lacrosse field. Not quite the last stronghold, you are yet near enough your goal for no one to notice you in the mix-up. But even here you aren't supposed to look happy. With your weapon at the ready you must keep close to your allotted opponent slightly ahead so that you can catch the ball before she does. We followed her like a dog, and for the rest of their lives old lacrosse-players tend to walk three inches behind the people they are walking with. Sometimes, in our devotion to duty, we followed this allotted opponent right to the edge of the battle, where we hopped about looking anxious until it was too late. Another thing we were good at looking was casually alert during the lulls between goals, as if conscious that even when chatting to our opponent we were in the eye of the tense crowds thronging the banks. I need not say that we played our lacrosse, like our cricket and tennis, before an audience comprising the school, the staff, our families, our home friends and the people we had met at the seaside.

The years have misted house matches and school matches for those who saw them only from round the outside. A few huge padded goalkeepers emerge, and someone behind the goal called a flag-wagger, and that is all. Our sporting life is a long way away now, except when our husbands throw matchboxes at us, but it has had a lasting effect. Besides knowing we have the team spirit, we cannot see a lacrosse stick without remembering that the string part is made of bacon

rind; and that if lacrosse didn't equip us for the world in any other way it at least made us glad to get out into it.

ANDE

BACK ROOM JOYS

BEING STIFF

I WONDER if

You, too, adore being stiff—
That is, within reason.

It is the beginning of the season—
With the immoderation of old joy recaptured
You have returned enraptured,
Gone to bed, slept, and now are awake . . .
O, that well-distributed ache
In the right-hand shoulder
As you roll over!
Ow! that eminently bearable pain
As you draw up your knees—and do so again
To test it once more!
The back-muscles are nicely sore—
Your whole body hurts a little, letting you feel
That it's real,
Letting you recall
That the muscles exist at all—
And you have the joy of leaving off when you like.

Freudians, and other psych—
Whatever-you-call-them, would claim
That this is Masochism—a baleful name
For the very general and normal pleasure
Of "feeling where it is sore"—within measure.

JUSTIN RICHARDSON



—Brockbank



WHERE
mi
and elms
the crows
and I the
with hat on
and foot
I posture in
a musing

The wind is
I care no
content to
and I kn
For I was i
yet I did
a mind by
or heart

The crows
and grave
to balance
yet me t
a simulacru
a mask,
thing with
more con

For men, li
the portr
I doubt not
and neith
so those th
who stare
of what str
makes M

ARECROW

men have sowed that they
reap
high in rows,
convocations keep
of crows:
and arms spread wide
earth firm set,
ragged pride,
tinet.

mes, the wind it goes,
hy or when,
v men go like crows
more than men.
an's image made,
t receive
ot to be betrayed
ear on sleeve.

ouncil deep debate
scussion weigh
r affairs of state;
must obey,
nd a shell,
g that blows,
ubstance that can quell
es than the crows'.

hem, have eyes that see
n the pose:
authority
o the crows,
re in pride of place
r some to see
stuff the human race
men, like me.

ALUN LLEWELLYN





WINKIE

"Supposed to be a writer collecting material."

NO CHANGE

THE Voles are coming in for a drink this evening, so I am to knock off bread-winning early this morning and see if I can win some stuffed olives and some of those hand-woven cigarettes *La Vole* sort of sighs into and then sickens of. I am also to come by some tall bushy-topped blooms that will blot out the bright blob on the drawing room wall where the dart-board will have been.

The accent of our arrangements will be on gracious living. I am to buy an armful of glistening magazines, some Book Society choices and the lampshade from

Booms with bear-baiting or, failing that, the Environs of Ely Cathedral round it. If either is more than I can run to I am to ask to try it for size and then return dissatisfied with it on Monday.

I am to hurry home from all this so as to be here when the butcher calls, because the drawing-room is to be turned inside out and the two of us—Butcher Burrows and I—will be wanted to help see what sort of a dash the piano cuts in one of the other corners. The dining-room is to be placed out of bounds, and anything falling below the required aesthetic level will be looked in there.

At the same time it will be possible to milk the dining-room of anything with strong cultural qualifications, such as the gouache "Accident Ward, Chiswick," which is to replace the steel engraving of the Infant Samuel over the drawing-room fireplace. The fact that the Infant Samuel in its present position awakens poignant childhood memories for me is charming but hardly relevant. It ought to be obvious that the Voles and the Infant Samuel do not add up.

Violet, who is helping with the upheaval, will not have time to cook me any lunch, so I am to get some pork-type pies for myself and Mrs. Planet. I must have been told that Mrs. Planet was coming up to shorten the green silk squiggly. It was not only yesterday that she came up to lengthen it. Skirts have been withdrawing to prepared positions for ages and ages. The smeary salmon has been seen by the Voles. It is in any case short in the wrong sense and liable to fight with the fire-screen.

Mrs. Planet is to stay and iron the loose covers, and this will provide a heavenly opportunity to have my pepper-and-salt properly pressed. I look a perfect poppet with my pepper-and-salt properly pressed. It may not be essential for me to look a perfect poppet for the benefit of Brigadier E. G. and Mrs. Brinsley Vole but it is essential that I should try to be a credit to my nearest and normally dearest, and not cause her to go hot and cold all over every time the light falls in such a manner that the mulligatawny on my green tweed is brought into sharp relief. It is not conceded that my green tweed is a suitable subject for camouflaging with tall bushy-topped blooms.

This afternoon there will be the downstairs windows to do. I cannot possibly be serious when I speak of leaving the household high and dry at a moment like this in order to go and chivy pathetic little fish. Nobody ever suggested that we were fond of the Voles. It is our self-respect that is at stake. Voles or no Voles, it cannot be right to leave windows alone for so long that it becomes necessary to clean them in

some instances with a hammer and chisel.

There are also certain things in the garden crying out for attention. It was I myself who pointed out that there was more gravel than plant-life in the herbaceous border, whereas in the drive the position was exactly reversed. It is fully appreciated that there are limits to the amount that can be accomplished by a two-armed man in the course of an afternoon, and therefore before starting on the garden it would perhaps be as well for me to tackle some more pressing duty.

There is a possibility that they may bring his wind-swept sister and her friend underhypnotic treatment. Against this contingency the arm-chair will have to be brought down from the spare room and I shall have to come home by the Furbelows and think up some reason for having their cocktail glasses without having them.

Since my opinion is asked, I do not think it would be a good idea to try to borrow their parlour-maid's subfusc at the same time. I do not agree that we—or, as it would be, I—could easily say it was for charades or that if Violet couldn't get it all done up at the back one of us could take over from her at the door to save her having to walk in front of them.

The *petit point* begun and abandoned in 1947 is to be resurrected and left carelessly on the sofa, from where it can be whisked apologetically. It is suggested that I may like to plant pipes at irregular intervals together with a copy of *The Times* with the crossword filled in, not necessarily correctly. By such means, I am informed, it is hoped to create the impression that there have been no special preparations. DANIEL PETTIWARD

"Sir John I. Falconer, in performing the opening ceremony, said that he was glad to see that fêtes and sales of work were coming back again and that people were helping themselves."

"The Scotman"

Where is Sir John holding his next fête?

PICCADILLY

THE buses saunter,
And the dawdling feet
Whispering, delaying
Sound like the murmuring
Of London's lost rivers,
And a haze of heat
Is blown from the green slope,
With the scent of grass drying,
Sunburnt, countrified,
Luring the feet.

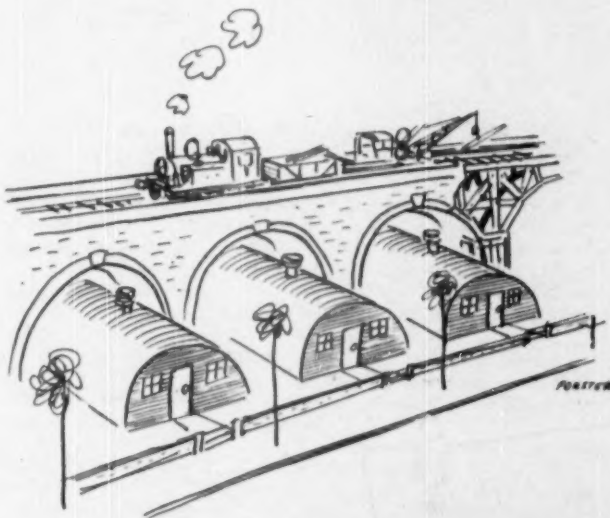
And the red and the grey
Cars, buses and people
Fade, like a mirage.
(Who can tell, they may be one!)
And down the hill trundles
A blue and red wagon
Come from the market
Laden with hay.
Wisps of it dangle
And catch on the hedges

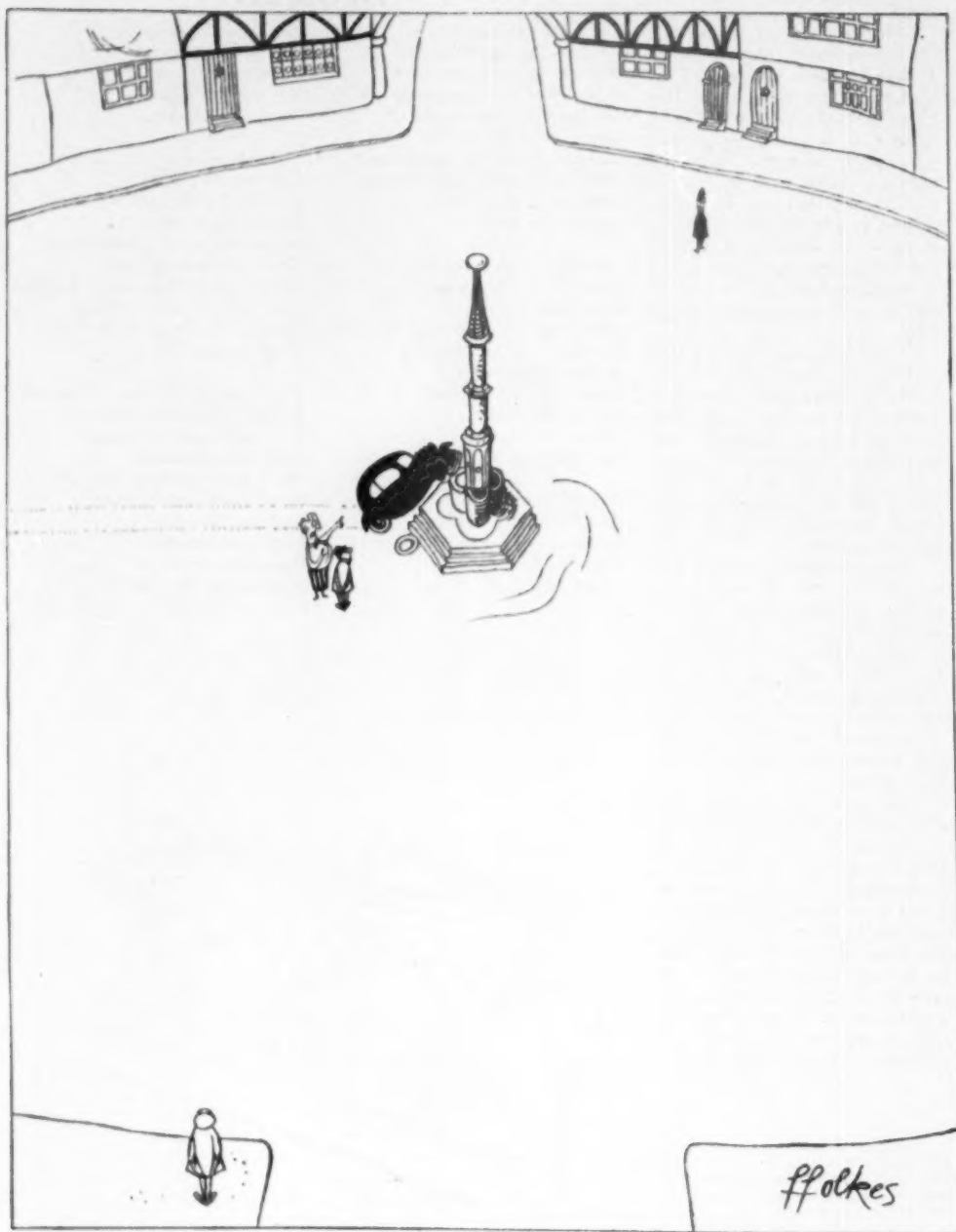
Notched with dog roses
And blackberry flowers.
But sauntering countrywards
(Hillyarde painted her.
Oliver loved her),

Oriana comes dawdling,
Marigold, vixen,
Beech-mast in sunlight
Are not so bright
As the red of her hair.

For released from the narrow,
The turreted city,
Cinctured with bramble-red
Mellow brick walls,
She comes to the fresh fields,
The hummocks of hay,
And her picadill, starched, notched,
Dyed yellow with saffron,
Nods in the fresh wind,
Nicks at her neck.

Then loosed from the yellow ruff,
Doffing the carved busk,
The farthingale, petticoat,
Gold and brocaded,
She stands like a country girl
Smock-clad and barefoot,
And up Piccadilly
The picadill blows,
But young Oriana
Is gathering the rose.





"Well, what's the excuse this time?"

A PERSONAL TRIUMPH

I THOUGHT I had put my ticket in the crack under the steel tubing that ran around the top of the seat in front; but when the inspector came for our tickets the chap sitting next to me took the ticket out of the crack and gave it to him.

"I say, old chap," I said deprecatingly. "I think that was my ticket you took."

"No," he said, "that was my ticket I took. What makes you think I took your ticket?"

"I put my ticket there, I think."

"I always put my ticket under the crack," he said.

"Your ticket, please," said the inspector.

Already I was beginning to lose responsibility for my words and actions. I felt in my trousers pockets, but no tickets encountered my tremulous fingers.

"It must be somewhere," I said.

"M'm," said the inspector.

I felt in my top jacket pocket and brought out enough bits and pieces to start a filing cabinet.

"Aha," I said, "it must be amongst these."

"M'm," said the inspector.

It was a queer assortment. There were library tickets, cinema tickets, concert tickets and, I was glad to see, bus tickets. I shuffled them and gave him some bus tickets.

"What," he said, "am I supposed to do with these?"

"They're bus tickets," I explained.

"I'm not collecting bus tickets."

"I don't know which ticket is the right one."

"I suppose I do know?"

"Can't you tell by the number?"

"I could if I had all the morning."

I took them all back again.

"What about this one?" I said, taking one from the middle.

He studied it as if it were some exotic curio.

"Issued by the Durban Municipality," he said. "Very few of the buses in Johannesburg are run by



"Oh dear, four-fifteen—Mrs. Dale's Diary . . ."

the Durban Municipality. Or perhaps," he added heavily, "I got lost on my way to work this morning."

I gave him another one.

"It's torn," he said. "There's no number."

"I suppose it worked itself loose," I said.

"Ticket's no use without a number. Not allowed to tear tickets."

"It's my ticket—I paid four-pence for it."

"M'm," said the inspector.

"Well, what about this one?"

I said, handing him a ticket in a rather attractive shade of orange.

"Are you going to hand me those tickets one by one?" he said.

"No, no," I said, "that would be silly, wouldn't it? I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll eliminate all the Durban tickets first—that will save a lot of time."

"I'll go round and do the rest of the bus and then come back. You're not getting off yet, I suppose?"

I regarded that as a most sinister question.

By now the whole bus was agog. People handed tickets to the inspector with complacent smirks and sidelong glances at me. A quick look through my bunch of tickets

showed me that though they were interesting from an historical point of view they were quite irrelevant to the present journey. I searched all my pockets again. I burrowed deeply into my wallet. I patted myself all over as though the ticket would betray its presence by a sudden movement or a squeak.

The inspector was coming back when I spotted it. I began to feel arrogant.

"Why did you buy two tickets?" I said to my neighbour in a loud voice.

"I've only got one," he said, holding it up.

"What's that in your hat-band—a feather?"

His hat was on his knees. He looked at the ticket in the hat-band. He looked at the ticket in his hand. Then he took another look at the ticket in the hat-band. I have never seen anybody become so absorbed in tickets.

"But *this* is my ticket," he said pathetically, motioning feebly with his hand.

"Then why did you put my ticket in your hat-band?"

He pulled it out and gave it another searching look. The inspector wrested it from his grip.

"M'm," said the inspector.

I enjoyed the rest of the journey.

"I always have put my ticket in the back of the seat," said my neighbour after about ten minutes.

"M'm," I said.

AT THE TURN OF THE STAIR

AT the turn of the crowded stair I saw, and knew as I saw,

The way the head was carried, the way the hat was put on,

The way the faint light fell on the line of cheek-bone and jaw:

For a second—less than a second—and then the hat was gone.

Just the tilt of a hat, a hat and a girl's face,

Half-seen for a split second in the dusty light of the stair,

Tapping a mind-cell sealed long since in a far-off place
To flood a bewildered moment with confusion touched with despair:

Like pitiful, night-lost voices blown from a world apart,
Shaking the listening mind with an unexplored distress:

Or a sudden stolen scent that plucks the sleeve of the heart,

Making it bitterly aware of a vanished loveliness:

Or a silver challenge of bugles blowing out of the empty past,

Singing out of the dawn of the earliest days that were,
Crying of youth and beauty and things that could not last,

Terraced cadences frozen high in the misted morning air.

The conscious movement of time that carried the hat and the girl away

Lapped and overbore the half-free, hesitant brain;
And the thing half apprehended was pushed back out of the way

For a word, or a scent, or a trick of light that may never happen again.



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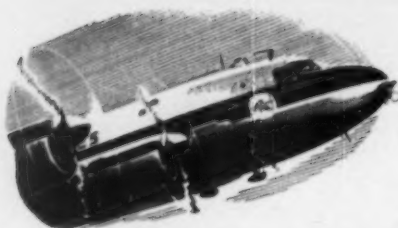


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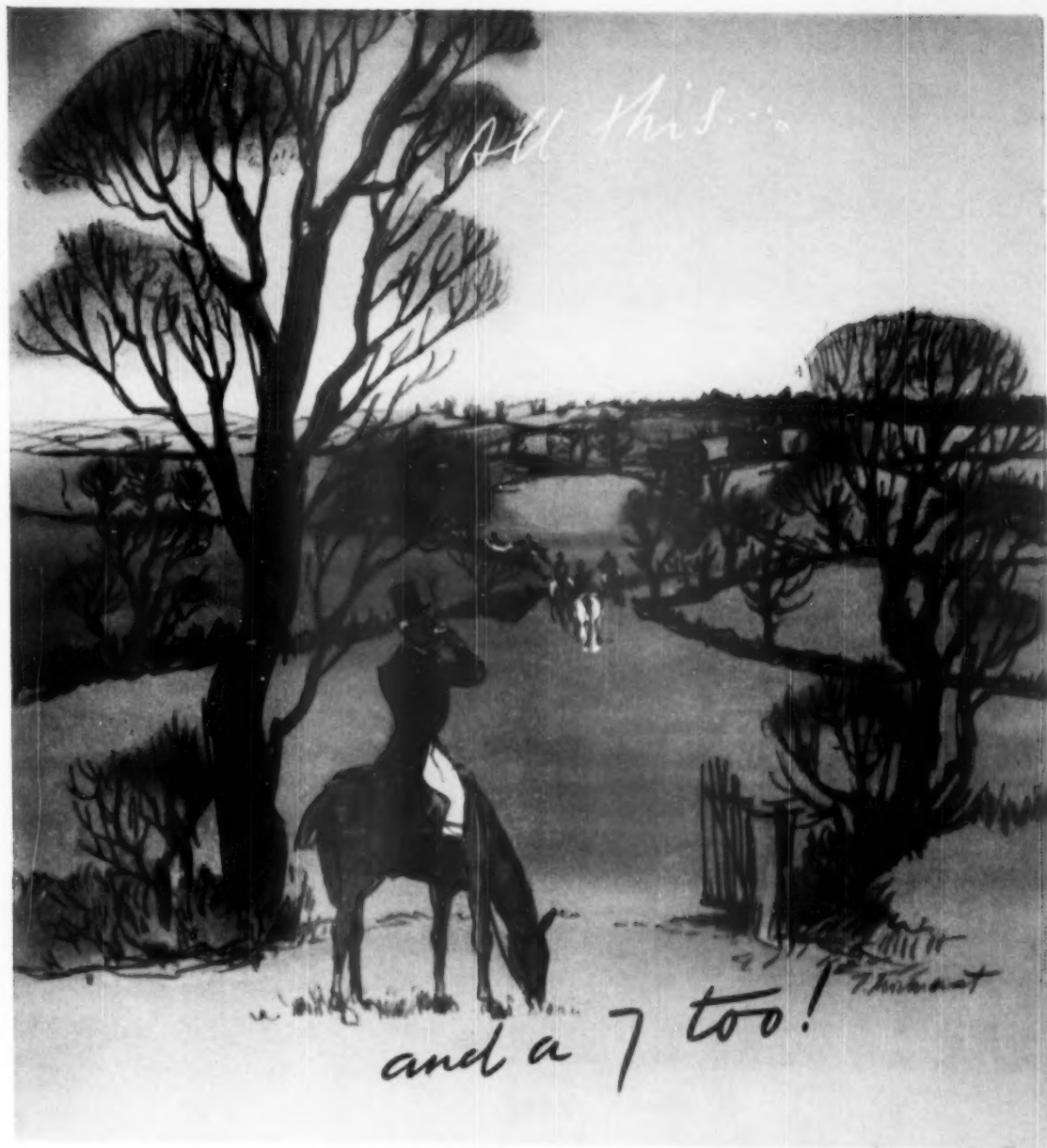


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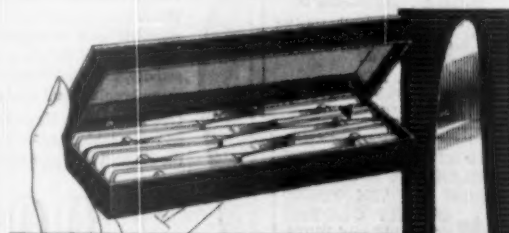


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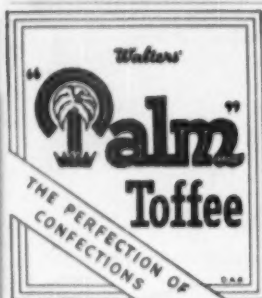
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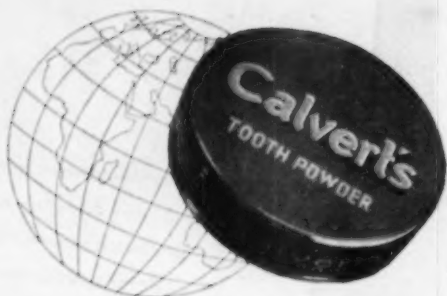
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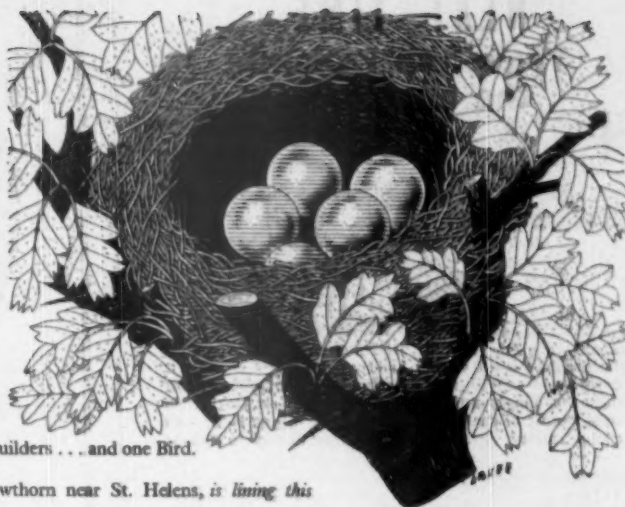
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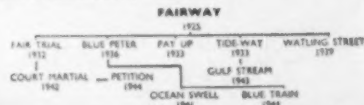


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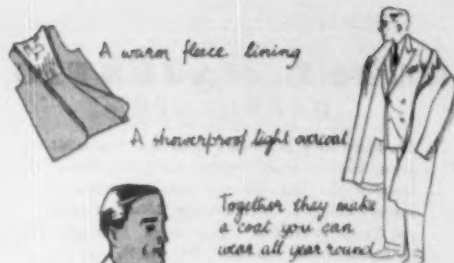
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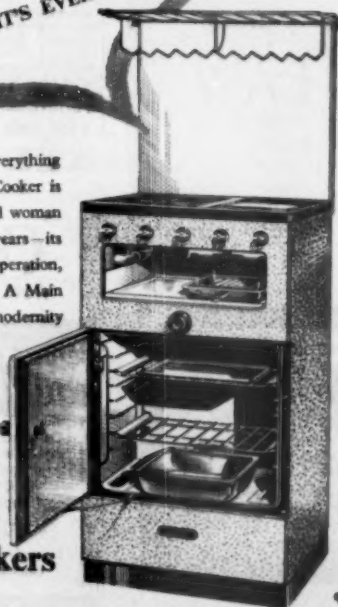
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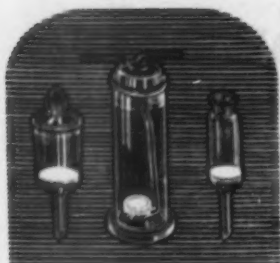
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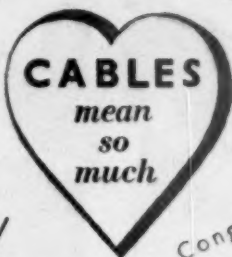
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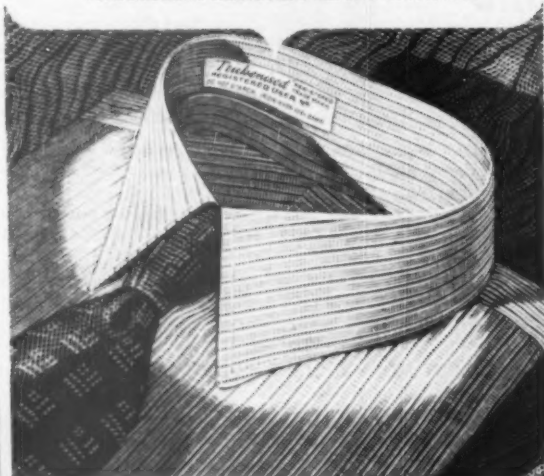
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